



SOROPTIMIST[®]
Investing in Dreams



2023
Founder Region
Soroptimist International of the Americas

Forty-Seventh Annual
Conference Proceedings

Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607
May 5-7, 2023



Vicki Ham, Governor

The Forty-Seventh Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The forty-seventh annual Founder Region Conference was held on May 5-7, 2023, at the Oakland Marriott City Center in Oakland, CA.

Friday, May 5, 2023 Legislative Advocacy Program

Registration opened at 8:00 am. The Trade Fair opened at 8 am.

Governor Vicki Ham opened the Legislative Advocacy session at 10:00am. She welcomed those in attendance to the Legislative Advocacy presentation “The Sandwich Generation” Our Greatest Gift & Our Heaviest Burden.

Governor Vicki announced the conference hashtag for sharing photos during the conference.
#FR2023CONFERENCE

Governor Vicki introduced the Platform Party.

Far left:

Adrienne Horen, Vice President / Investments and Financial Advisor, Janney Investments
Susannah Meyer, Executive Director, Empowered Aging
Debbie Toth, President & CEO, Choice in Aging
Rosemary Fox, Director of Home Care Services, By the Bay Health, Beyond Hospice
Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Madalienne Peters, SI/Novato
Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair, Linda Witong, SI/Novato

Far right:

Parliamentarian Sylvia Crafton, SI/The Marianas
Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Angie Haramoto, SI/Mau
Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Phyliss Gordon, SI/The Delta
Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin, SI/Benicia
Governor Vicki Ham, SI/Willits

On Zoom:

Maria L Fornella-Oehninger, Soroptimist International Representative at the UN in New York

The Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair Linda Witong introduced the first speaker who attended via zoom, Maria L Fornella-Oehninger, Soroptimist International Representative at the UN in New York.

Maria L Fornella-Oehninger recently served as the Co-Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Social Development from 2020-2022. She is also one of six Soroptimist International Representatives at the UN in New York. Prior to those appointments, Maria taught and directed International Politics and the Model UN Program at the Old Dominion University in Virginia for 23 years. She has also worked as a human rights advocate, a lecturer in Comparative Politics and International Relations and has engaged in public speaking for advocacy as an expert in forums including the UN regarding the UN Sustainable Development goals which includes discussing the challenges and the human rights of women and girls. She has also spoken as an expert in Inter-American consultancy as well as Cultural Awareness training for teachers, government officials and the military. She was the co-chair of the policy committee for the American Association of University Women for 2017-2018 and holds degrees in English, French and International Law from the School of Law and Social Sciences at the University of the Republic of Uruguay as well as a Master’s Degree in International Politics from Old Dominion University.

Chair Linda then introduced panelist Rosemary Fox.

Rosemary Fox is an experienced executive with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. She is skilled in Healthcare Consulting, Coaching, Strategic Planning, Team Building, Business Process Improvement, Population Health, and Care Coordination. Recently she worked to build a complex care management service with a team of professionals for MediCare and MediCal patients. Rosemary is a strong healthcare services professional with a Master of

Business Administration (M.B.A.) focused in Health/Health Care Administration/Management from Golden Gate University. Rosemary is an experienced and uniquely qualified healthcare executive whose success has been built upon accomplishing strategic and operational change in integrated delivery systems, hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, care management and the dialysis industry. She is known for being creative and achieving her goals in an innovative and timely way. She is able to manage both capital and operating budgets with sustainable results. Her leadership style is passionate and energetic; she always exhibits integrity, collaboration, and the ability to maximize her team's attributes to produce outstanding results. She has built her successes by partnering with physicians, developing high performing management teams, growing volume, improving the patient experience, implementing innovative operational improvements and cost management initiatives. Rosemary enjoys challenges and finding new solutions to common problems.

She said that we need to think about ourselves. Do not be afraid to expose yourself, share your feelings. Maintain balance. She explained the oreo cookie handout. 2 chocolate wafers with a yummy filling. There are 3 parts. You are the yummy filling and the things that are pulling/pushing on you are the cookies. We are the love that hold our families together. It is not easy to be that filling.

Chair Linda then introduced the morning panel: Rosemary Fox, Adrienne Horen, Susannah Meyer, Debbie Toth, Maria Elena Young (SI/Vacaville Twilight). Angie Haramoto and Parliamentarian Sylvia Crafton will moderate. Q and A followed.

Recessed 12 noon

Reconvened 12:30pm

Governor Vicki welcomed members back from break and gave a cell phone reminder.

Table Drawing: On each of the tables there is an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets are \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50.00 bill from Treasurer Tess. Envelopes like these will be on the tables during each meal. The money we raise during lunch today will fund our Legislative Advocacy Programs.

Lydia Justice, President of SI/The Tri-Valley, provided the Inspiration and Bonnie Mertz, President of SI/The East Bay, provided the Welcome.

Lunch

Governor Vicki called upon committee member Phylliss Gordon to introduce keynote speaker Debbie Toth.

Debbie Toth joined the Choice in Aging team in 2002 and worked in various positions until she was promoted in 2012 to CEO. She was then elected to the Board of Directors and became President in 2017. Debbie oversees CiA's two adult day health care programs at Mt. Diablo Center in Pleasant Hill and The Bedford Center in Antioch, as well as advocating for seniors rights at the federal, state, and local level. Under Debbie's leadership CiA has expanded to include the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) for Contra Costa, Napa and Solano Counties, the California Community Transitions (CCT) project in Contra Costa, Solano and Sacramento Counties, and the Prevention and Early Access Program for Seniors (PEAS) in Solano. In 2017 Debbie realized her dream of adding intergenerational programming to CiA when Choice in Learning Montessori preschool was integrated into the Pleasant Hill Campus. Debbie has been honored with numerous awards for her work and advocacy, including Woman of the Year in 2015 in Susan Bonilla's Assembly District 14. Debbie is the mother of three children, grandmother of three cats and two fishermen at home. She is a tireless advocate for seniors, persons with disabilities and the underserved.

Committee member Madalienne Peters introduced Adrienne Horen.

Adrienne has been a pioneer in advising women with their financial affairs. She firmly believes "Developing and Maintaining Financial Strength Allows Women to Lead the Life They Choose." In her practice, her main focus is helping women manage their financial assets. Using experience gained over the course of her career, she was able to identify the specific problems that face women in today's environment. Women on average outlive men. Women are usually caregivers to children and aging parents. Women have historically earned less than men in the workforce and on their investments. It

is imperative that women have a strong financial road map to preserve and grow their wealth. She provides financial recommendations and services that can help design that road map. Deep trust is pivotal to her relationship with her clients. This allows for effective communication which is necessary for ongoing collaboration. This has been her commitment to her clients--individuals, families, and not-for-profit organizations--for over twenty years in an effort to protect and increase their wealth and bring peace of mind by helping to improve their financial well-being.

Chair Linda thanked the speakers, announced that a Q and A would take place after the break.

Recess 1:50pm

Reconvene 2pm

Q and A with the panel that included Rosemary Fox, Adrienne Horen, Susannah Meyer, Debbie Toth. Moderated by Angie and Sylvia. Chair Linda closed out the session with a few remaining questions for the panel.

Governor Vicki thanked the Legislative Advocacy Committee, moderators and guest speakers.

The Table Drawing winner was announced and given \$50.00. A total of \$693.00 was raised for Legislative Advocacy Programs.

Governor Vicki asked Conference Coordinator Dona if there were any announcements.

Governor Vicki reminded everyone to visit the Trade Fair. All Fellows were invited to attend a Fellowship Reception at 5pm in the Skyline Room to meet the Fellowship recipients. The No-Host cocktail reception for all members in the Grand Ballroom Atrium will begin at 6:15pm, with the Fellowship Awards Gala & Dinner to begin at 7:00pm. Tomorrow's Fellowship Meeting starts promptly at 8:00am followed by the Region Business Meeting.

Recess 3:05pm

Parliamentarian Sylvia conducted the following: 3:15pm delegates briefing, 3:30pm timekeepers briefing.

At 6:00pm, the Founder Region "Fellows" Reception was held in the Skyline Room. Fellows got a chance to meet the recipients for a Q&A.

Reconvene 7:06pm

At 7:06pm Governor Vicki welcomed everyone to the 47th Annual Founder Region Conference. Our 2021 conference in Oakland was cancelled due to the pandemic and was rescheduled for our 2023 Conference. She announced the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by the Northern California Girl Scout Troop.

Governor Vicki introduced the mayor of the City of Oakland, Mayor Sheng Thao, to provide the community welcome.

Governor-elect Elise thanked the Mayor on behalf of Soroptimist International of Oakland-The Founder Club, Soroptimist International of the East Bay, Soroptimist International of El Cerrito and Soroptimist International of The Tri-Valley. Special thanks was given to Kay Taylor, President of Soroptimist International of Oakland-The Founder Club for her efforts in bringing Mayor Thao to be with us.

Fellowship Treasurer Danelle Tegarden gave the inspiration. District III Fellowship Director Laurie Gallian gave the welcome.

Governor Vicki announced the Platform Party.

Top Left Tier:

Fellowship Director, District V, Angie Bugarin of SI/Central Oahu

2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Randi Rollins

2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Amy Var

Fellowship Director, District IV, Laura Middlemiss of SI/Humboldt Bay

Top Right Tier:

2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Joanne Qina' Au

Fellowship Director, District II Dana Holve of SI/Vacaville Twilight
2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Teena Bajaj
Fellowship Director, District III, Laurie Gallian of SI/Sonoma Valley
2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Nehal Eldeeb

On the bottom tier far left:

Fellowship Treasurer, Danelle Tegarden of SI/Eureka
2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Babalwa Kwanele
2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Jennifer Taylor Edens
Fellowship President, Kris Chorbi of SI/Eureka

On the bottom tier far right:

Fellowship Director, District I, Billie Knight, SI/The East Bay
2023 Fellowship Award Recipient, Alina Nguyen

Governor Vicki asked attendees to rise and join her in recognizing Soroptimist International of the Americas, President-elect Bobbi Enderlin of SI/Benicia. And then introduced herself, Governor Vicki Ham, SI/Willits.

Governor Vicki announced that on each of the tables there is an envelope with raffle tickets inside. The tickets are \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50.00 bill from Fellowship Treasurer Danelle. Envelopes like these will be on the tables during each meal. The money raised during this evening's dinner will go to Founder Region Fellowship.

Dinner

Following dinner, Governor Vicki turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Kris Chorbi. President Kris welcomed everyone to the Fellowship Awards Banquet to celebrate the 10 outstanding women being honored tonight, as well as our 75th Anniversary – our Diamond Jubilee. To date, we have provided 363 women with a little over 1.7 million dollars in funding to help them achieve their doctoral degrees. She thanked everyone for supporting the fundraisers and for donating. To honor this special occasion, they provided every attendee with a commemorative 75 Year pen.

She then recognized all Fellows by asking them to stand.

She recognized the past Fellowship Presidents.

She announced that the amount of the first Fellowship award in 1948 was \$1,500.00. Tonight, they are awarding the highest amount ever given, \$10,075.00 each, to commemorate our 75th Anniversary.

President Kris then introduced the keynote speaker. Dr. Eric Haas has been in education for over 30 years and is currently the Director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at California State University, East Bay.

President Kris thanked Dr. Haas and his lovely wife for joining us tonight.

President Kris announced that the recipients will be receiving certificates of recognition from the following dignitaries:

US Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Congressman Jared Huffman
California State Senator Nancy Skinner
California State Senator Mike McGuire
California State Assembly Member Jim Wood

In addition, for the recipients from UH Manoa, Certificates from the Governor of Hawaii, Josh Green, M.D.

And most importantly, they will receive certificates from Founder Region Fellowship along with their check for \$10,075.00.

The 2023 recipients were each introduced by a Fellowship board member:
Alina Nguyen, UC Berkeley, Integrative Biology
Amy Var, UH Mānoa, Learning Design I Technology
Babalwa Kwanele, CSU East Bay, Educational Leadership for Social Justice
Erin McConkey, UH Mānoa, Anthropology
Jasmine Jan, UC Berkeley, Electrical Engineering I Computer Sciences
Jennifer Taylor Edens, CSU East Bay, Social Justice in Education
Joanne Qina`Au, UH Mānoa, Clinical Psychology
Nehal Eldeeb, UC Berkeley, Social Welfare
Randi Rollins, UH Mānoa, Zoology | Disease Ecology
Teena Bajaj, UC Berkeley, Comparative Biochemistry

President Kris congratulated all the recipients and cannot wait to see how they will change the world.

She announced the Table Drawing tonight will benefit Founder Region Fellowship and raised \$1224.00. A winner was drawn and received a \$50.00 bill.

As more than \$1,000.00 was raised, a fellow was drawn. Winner of a Fellow was Jo Harlow, SI/Diablo Vista.

President Kris congratulated the winners and thanked everyone for supporting the Fellowship Program.

President Kris turned the program over to Governor Vicki.

Governor Vicki thanked President Kris, Treasurer Danelle, and Directors Billie, Dana, Laurie, Laura and Angie for performing the tasks required to select such worthy recipients. She congratulated the Fellowship recipients.

She called on Conference Coordinator Dona for any announcements.

Governor Vicki announced that we are in recess until 8:00 am tomorrow morning, when we will begin our day with the Founder Region Fellowship business meeting in this same location.

Recess 10:22pm

Saturday, May 6, 2023 Fellowship Business Meeting

President Kris welcomed everyone to the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting and called it to order at 8am.

Fellowship Credentials report #1

Clubs in Founder Region: 50
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 49
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1
Clubs Registered: 41
Total Clubs Voting: 40

Delegates registered:
Fellowship Officers: 2
Fellowship Directors: 5
Region Board Delegates: 9
Club Delegates: 99
Total Delegates: 115
Quorum for Opening Session: 58

Minutes of the Fellowship Business Meeting may be found on the Fellowship website.

Saturday, May 6, 2023 Founder Region Business Meeting

Governor Vicki called the Founder Region Business meeting to order at 9:30am. She reminded members to silence their cell phones, identified the delegate area, and asked those who were not delegates to relocate from the area.

She then introduced the Platform Party.

Top Left Tier:

District V Director Teri Lynn Sato, SI/Honolulu

District IV Director Elaine Reed, SI/Eureka

Top Right Tier:

District I Director Lenore Colarusso, SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)

District II Director Jackie De Vries, SI/Vacaville

District III Director Colleen Ganaye, SI/Sonoma Valley

Bottom Left Tier:

Nominations & Elections Chair, Past Governor Amelia Benko, SI/The Tri-Valley

Laws and Resolutions Chair, Sheila Beardon, SI/Humboldt Bay

Region Treasurer, Tess Albin-Smith, SI/Noyo Sunrise

Parliamentarian, Sylvia Crafton, SI/The Marianas

Bottom Right Tier:

Region Secretary, Kristal Koga, SI/The Marianas

Region Governor-elect, Elise Balgley, SI/The Tri-Valley

Official Visitor, Soroptimist International of the Americas President-elect, Bobbi Enderlin, SI/Benicia

Governor Vicki Ham, SI/Willits

Credentials Chair Patricia Costello, SI/Oakland-the Founder Club, gave the first credentials report.

Founder Region Credentials report #1:

Clubs in Founder Region: 50

Clubs Eligible to Vote: 49

Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1

Clubs Registered: 41

Total Clubs Voting: 41

Delegates Registered

Region Officers: 4

District Directors: 5

Club Delegates: 116

Total Delegates: 125

Quorum for Opening Session: 63

Governor Vicki repeated the credential report and asked if there were any questions. Governor Vicki called for the vote and Founder Region Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Vicki called upon Secretary Kristal to read the Conference Standing Rules. Secretary Kristal said the Standing Rules are printed in our 2023 Founder Region Official Conference Program and are found on page 33. In the interest of time and with no objections, the Standing Rules were not read. She moved for the adoption of the Standing Rules. The standing rules were adopted unanimously.

Governor Vicki called upon Secretary Kristal to read corrections to the conference program. There were none. Secretary Kristal moved for the adoption of the Official Program subject to changes that may be necessary to expedite the business of the conference. The Official Program was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor Vicki announced that there are 41 first time attendees registered and asked them to rise and be recognized. They received a commemorative pen that was handed out by the District Directors.

No new members to be inducted.

Governor Vicki asked for the pages to rise. They are responsible for microphones, messages to the chair, door-keeping, and other duties that may arise. She thanked them for accepting their duties. In addition, a big thank you given to stewards: Kay Taylor of SI/Oakland-the Founder Club will be supporting Governor-elect Elise and Governor Vicki, Amelia Benko of SI/The Tri-Valley will be supporting Fellowship President Kris, and Lydia Justice of SI/The Tri-Valley will be supporting our Official Visitor, Bobbi.

Governor Vicki recognized the host clubs' committee members. Thanked them for accepting these duties and for making our conference a huge success.

Members were informed to look for special greetings from Michelle Burnett, SIA CEO and Executive Director and SIA President Stephanie Smith in the Conference Program. A video was shown of SIA President Stephanie Smith.

Governor Vicki asked all to use our region hashtag on social media posts of the Conference. #FR2023CONFERENCE

Governor Vicki called upon Secretary Kristal to read the greetings and correspondence. Secretary Kristal read a letter from Past Governor Mary Ann Redden.

Secretary Kristal announced the clubs volunteering to host the Founder Region Conference in 2026: SI/The Redwoods.

Governor Vicki urged other clubs to see Secretary Kristal if they are interested in joining with SI/The Redwoods to host. She called on a representative from SI/The Redwoods to address the assembly. President Crystal Arbuthnot said they are looking forward to working with other clubs to host.

Secretary Kristal moved the acceptance of SI/The Redwoods to host the 2026 Founder Region Conference, which requires a majority vote. Governor Vicki called for a vote. Motion passed.

Governor Vicki asked if there were any updates to the credentials report previously given. Since there are no updates, the credential report previously adopted remains in place.

Governor Vicki declared the microphone to her right would be microphone #1 and the microphone to her left would be microphone #2. Sadia Kahn and Joni Hiramoto assisted with the microphones. Shawntee Baker and Jane Bartke were the timekeepers.

Past Governor Amelia Benko, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations for the 2023-2025 Founder Region Nominating Committee:

District I: Bonnie Mertz, SI/The East Bay
District II: Clara Oakes, SI/Vacaville
District III: Madalienne Peters, SI/Novato
District IV: Vicki Dillard, SI/Arcata
District V: Angie Haramoto, SI/Maui

Governor Vicki read each nomination by district. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She stated that if there were none, the chair would declare the nominations closed. There were no nominations from the floor; therefore, the nominations were closed.

Governor Vicki asked the candidates for the 2023-2025 Nominating Committee to line up. Each candidate had 2 minutes to speak. District III nominee submitted a video as she was not in attendance.

ELECTIONS

According to Article V, Section 5.2 Elections (a) of the region bylaws, "Voting shall be by ballot unless there is only one candidate for office; in such event voting shall be by voice vote." We continue to vote for those candidates who are running unopposed for the Founder Region Board by voice.

Only delegates to the conference, region officers and district directors from clubs within each district may vote for the candidates of their respective districts.

Governor Vicki announced the Founder Region Nominating Committee District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Bonnie Mertz as the Founder Region District I Nominating Committee representative. Governor Vicki announced the Founder Region Nominating Committee District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Clara Oakes as the Founder Region District II Nominating Committee representative. Governor Vicki announced the Founder Region Nominating Committee District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Madalienne Peters as the Founder Region District III Nominating Committee representative. Governor Vicki announced the Founder Region Nominating Committee District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Vicki Dillard as the Founder Region District IV Nominating Committee representative. Governor Vicki announced the Founder Region Nominating Committee District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Angie Haramoto as the Founder Region District V Nominating Committee representative.

Governor Vicki thanked the delegates, Nominating/Elections Chair Amelia, the committee members and Parliamentarian Sylvia.

Governor Vicki then announced that Dyann O'Brien of SI/Eureka has agreed to serve as the 2023-2025 Nominating Committee Chair.

Recess 10:15am

Reconvene 10:25am

OFFICIAL VISITOR PRESENTATION

SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin was introduced by Governor Vicki. Bobbi is a member of SI/Benicia, a Past Governor and Past Founder Region Fellowship President. As SIA's President-elect, Bobbi helps to oversee Soroptimist's strategic planning and program development for the organization. She also helps lead Soroptimist's efforts to increase its collective impact in helping women and girls to reach their full potential. Her Official Visitor presentation is entitled, "Power of the Collective: Small Deeds Bring Big Dreams", and we are counting on her, as SIA President-elect to lead the charge and lead the members of our federation to "Bee the Dream!" as well.

Governor Vicki asked if there were any changes to the Credential Report - there were no changes.

This year we have no Proposed Amendments to the Founder Region Bylaws, so we will move on to other reports and business.

Treasurer Tess Albin-Smith gave the treasurer's report. There are 2 reports in your bag. The Balance Report that are the Founder Region bank balances as of the end of March. It includes investments, savings, and the checking accounts. Then you will see the 2-year biennium 2022-2024 Budget vs. Actual Report. This reflects how much we spent vs. budgeted in each category. Budgets are a guideline, sometimes we are over and sometimes under. Please bear in mind that this report is from July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023. Treasurer Tess indicated if there are any questions, she would be happy to discuss them during the breaks.

She then talked about the SI President Maggie Maguire's President's Appeal committee which she serves on. "Opening Doors to a Bright Future" is the project and focuses on education. She is selling the President's Appeal pin and to please see her to purchase them.

Governor Vicki thanked Treasurer Tess for her report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Governor Vicki invited Governor-elect Elise to give the Membership Report on behalf of Chair Lyn Lurbe, who could not be here today. A PowerPoint presentation was shown which touched on current and upcoming membership campaigns and SIA's Member Code of Conduct and how it will support a healthy and engaging club environment and member experience.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Fundraising Chair Gina announced that the pink ribbons on your name badges identifies one as either a member of, or a contributor to, the Laurel Society. She recognized all the Laurel Society members by asking them to stand. She thanked them for their tremendous support of our Dream Programs. They are still selling raffle tickets and have more pins for donations of \$1000.00.

She then started her powerpoint presentation. She thanked the contributors, Stargazers, Laurel Society, and Laurel Legacy members. She talked about Dreaming Big and The Big Goal.

SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin pinned the members that joined Laurel Society or leveled up:

Jackie Arnold, SI/Vallejo, Attache
Deborah Scaife, SI/Eel River Valley, Envoy
Lenore Colarusso, SI/24-680, Diplomat
Laura Glass, SI/Antioch, Diplomat
Dana Holve, SI/Vacaville Twilight, Attache

Chair Gina thanked Elise Balgley, Heather Ellison and Lenore Colarusso who signed up as Stargazers. Thanked Lisa Schibler, who was so much help, as well as the rest of the Fundraising committee and her club.

Governor Vicki thanked Chair Gina for her report.

Governor Vicki spoke on Club Giving. It is another way your club can extend its reach beyond your local community. When your club makes a Club Giving contribution of at least 10% of what your club raises locally, you help ensure SIA can increase the number of women and girls who benefit from our global programs.

Chair Gina announced the following:

Nineteen (19) Clubs from Founder Region have donated to Club Giving so far this year. 7 of those clubs indicated it was 10% of their total funds raised and will receive a special certificate.

SI/Calistoga
SI/Clear Lake
SI/Napa
SI/St. Helena
SI/Vacaville

SI/Vallejo

SI/Humboldt Bay

Deadline to submit your Club Giving donation is May 31 so you still have time to get your donation sent to SIA before the club year is over.

PUBLIC AWARENESS REPORT

Chair Kris spoke on 7 tips of Digital Marketing that include 1) use an online tool to schedule social media posts, 2) boost or not to boost your ad, 3) maximize your hashtag, 4) use high quality photos, 5) post more videos, 6) use design tools like Canva to spruce up photos, 7) build user friendly and engaging websites and update them regularly.

SIA has tools to assist with your marketing efforts.

PROGRAM REPORT

Governor-elect Elise gave her program report. She spoke about the Big Goal and setting annual targets for our programs, all the way down to the club level. 500,000 women and girls is about four times the number we reached each year during our last decade. To make this goal less seemingly insurmountable, each region has been provided with annual targets for the Dream Programs. For the 22/23 club year, every region in the federation has been asked to increase the number of women receiving a Live Your Dream Award by 10% and the number of girls participating in Dream It, Be It by 25% over our 21/22 numbers. This is trackable and achievable.

Governor Vicki thanked Chair Governor-elect Elise.

There are no updates to the credential report previously given. The credentials report previously adopted remains in place.

Governor Vicki asked Conference Coordinator Dona if there were any announcements.

Governor Vicki announced we are in recess until 12:30pm when we will reconvene to enjoy the District Directors' "Bee the Dream!" Luncheon. Presidents were instructed to meet their District Director in the lobby before lunch for the Presidents' Processional. She reminded everyone to visit the trade fair.

Recess 11:48am

Reconvene 12:38pm

Governor Vicki announced the Annual Founder Region Conference is reconvened, called the meeting to order and introduced the Platform Party.

Top Left Tier:

Parliamentarian Sylvia Crafton, SI/The Marianas

Public Awareness Chair, Kris Chorbi, SI/Eureka

Top Right Tier:

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair, Debbie Scaife, SI/Eel River Valley

Fundraising Chair, Gina Moore, SI/Antioch

Bottom Right Tier:

Region Treasurer, Tess Albin-Smith, SI/Noyo Sunrise

Region Secretary, Kristal Koga, SI/The Marianas

Region Governor-elect, Elise Balgley, SI/The Tri-Valley

Official Visitor, SIA President-elect, Bobbi Enderlin, SI/Benicia

Governor Vicki Ham, SI/Willits

On each of the tables was an envelope with raffle tickets inside. The tickets are \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50.00 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money we raise during lunch will go towards our Region Dream Programs. The District Directors then lead a processional of the club presidents or representatives while Governor Vicki orally introduced them as they entered.

The Inspiration was given by Elaine Reed, District IV Director followed by Teri Lynn Sato, District V Director, who gave the Welcome.

Lunch

The District Directors invited 3 clubs from their district to share about club successes. Then each Director pulled a club from their district to receive a \$250.00 donation to Club Giving.

District I – SI/Richmond

District II – SI/Vacaville Twilight

District III – SI/Santa Rosa

District IV – SI/Fort Bragg

District V – SI/Maui

Governor Vicki thanked the Directors for a great lunch program.

The Table Drawing raised \$1,106.00. A Raffle ticket was drawn and the winner received \$50.00 from Treasurer Tess.

Governor Vicki asked Conference Coordinator Dona if there were any announcements.

Recess 2:17pm

Reconvene 2:32pm

Business Meeting Reconvened by Governor Vicki, reminders were given to silence cell phones.

Chair Gina announced new members in Laurel Society, they were pinned by SIA President-elect Bobbi. Meredith Raymond, SI/Arcata, Attache and Colleen Ganaye, SI/Sonoma Valley, Attache.

Fellowship Director District II Dana Holve presented a new fellow to Tina Miller, SI/Vallejo.

NEW MEMBER SPONSOR DRAWING

Treasurer Tess announced the winner of the new member sponsor drawing. Janice Ishiara, SI/Central Oahu will receive a Laurel Society Membership worth \$1,000.00 or \$1,000.00 will be added to her account. There were 171 members in the drawing this year.

JULIA “BESS” COMBS AWARD

Treasurer Tess presented the Julia "Bess" Combs Membership Increase Award. This was based on membership between April 1 and March 31, to coincide with conference. Founder Region clubs have added 215 members since last July. We have a net region member retention of 101%. To win this award we look at net membership percentage increased, not the largest number added. Congratulations to Soroptimist International of Oakmont Wine Country for this achievement. They will receive a certificate of recognition as well as a \$500.00 donation made in their club name to Club Giving. Governor Vicki asked the Oakmont Wine Country club President Denise Bickert to accept the award and share a few words about how they did it. She noted several projects/events where the community is invited.

SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING SUCCESS REPORT

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair Debbie Scaife talked about the program and announced the winners in each of the four pillars – Fundraising, Membership, Program and Public Awareness. For the 2021-2022 club year, clubs in our region submitted a total of 30 entries representing 13 clubs in the following categories: 9 entries for fundraising, 5 for membership, 7 for program and 9 for public awareness. She recognized all clubs who submitted entries for these awards. The club President, or her designee, was asked to come to the front to receive their certificate.

FUNDRAISING: The following (9) clubs submitted entries for the Fundraising pillar.

SI/Arcata

SI/The Delta (two entries)

SI/Eureka
SI/Napa
SI/The Marianas
SI/Noyo Sunrise
SI/Sonoma Valley
SI/ Vacaville

The fundraising category recognizes fundraising projects that are successful, creative, involve the local community and promote a positive image of Soroptimist.

MEMBERSHIP: The following (5) clubs submitted entries for Membership.

SI/Arcata
SI/Benicia
SI/The Delta
SI/Eureka
SI/Vacaville

The Membership pillar recognizes projects that enhance the club membership experience, thus leading to increased member participation and satisfaction.

PROGRAM: The following (7) clubs submitted applications for Program.

SI/Arcata
SI/Benicia
SI/Crescent City
SI/Eureka/Eel River Valley
SI/Eureka
SI/Noyo Sunrise
SI/Santa Rosa

The Program pillar award recognizes club projects that improve the lives of women or girls by addressing issues that affect their economic, social or political standing, and focuses special attention on projects related to our signature Dream Programs: the “Live Your Dream Awards” and “Dream It, Be It.”

PUBLIC AWARENESS: The following (7) clubs submitted applications for Public Awareness.

SI/Arcata
SI/Benicia
SI/The Delta
SI/Eureka
SI/Maui
SI/Napa
SI/Noyo Sunrise
SI/Vacaville
SI/Willits

The award in the Public Awareness pillar recognizes projects that have successfully raised awareness for the club and its projects, thus leading to an increased public profile of Soroptimist and our mission.

This year club entries will not be moving up to SIA for judging. SIA is taking this opportunity to revamp this program. Founder Region will still award winning clubs with \$250.00 toward Club Giving and a Winner’s Award Certificate.

The judges were recognized: Dona Gaddis-Wolf, past FR Governor and SIA Federation Director; Barbara Lanier, immediate past FR Parliamentarian; and Crystal Arbuthnot, President SI/The Redwoods and past District IV Fellowship Director.

Winners in each pillar were announced:

Fundraising: SI/The Delta for their project entitled “Halloween Bingo Fundraiser”

Membership: SI/Vacaville for their project “The Three R’s of Membership”

Program: SI/Benicia for their project “The Benicia Elementary Literacy Tour”

Public Awareness: SI/Vacaville for their project “Countdown to 100 Years”

Governor Vicki thanked Chair Debbie for her report and all the clubs for their submissions.

Governor Vicki then spoke on Leadership Training where all members are welcome. We are offering two opportunities, an in-person event June 10th at the Red Lion Hotel in Eureka, which is the same weekend as our Memorial Grove event or virtually on June 17th. District V Leadership Training will be on Guam the same weekend as District V Meeting in October. You are welcome to attend whichever event fits within your schedule, regardless of which district you reside. The Call to Leadership has been released so we hope to see you there.

“SOROPARDY” GAME

District Directors have put together a fun activity and the microphone was turned over to them. A representative from each District was called upon to participate. It was well received and a lot of fun.

FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Fellowship Directors announced new or level up fellows from each District.

District I:

SI/Benicia	Mary Ann Branch
SI/East Bay	Marian Rojo
SI/East Bay	Brooke Harris
SI/El Cerrito	Angela Mason
SI/El Cerrito	Candy Capogrossi
SI/Oakland	Sheila Wang

District II:

SI/The Delta	Birdie (Roberta) Forsythe
SI/The Delta	Audry Gonsalvez
SI/The Delta	Sue Pretzer

District III:

SI/Sonoma Valley	Laurie Gallian
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District IV:

SI/Crescent City	Bonnie Thomas
SI/Eureka	Kris Chorbi
SI/Eureka	Monica Rose
SI/Humboldt Bay	Sharon Redd
SI/Willits	Vicki Ham
SI/Humboldt Bay	TBD at conference 75 yr donors

District V:

SI/Guam	TBD
SI/Guam	Rene Borja
SI/Honoululu	Club Fellow
SI/Maui	Angie Haramoto
SI/Maui	Wendy McDonald

SI/Maui
SI/Waikiki Foundation

Wendy McDonald
Barbara Yamashita

SIA EVENTS & UPDATES

SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin gave a presentation on SIA Events & Updates. She reported that we are in year 3 of the 3-year Dream Big Campaign and raised \$4 million of the \$15 million goal. She said she will match any gift up to \$10,500.00 until the end of the campaign in August. Tosha Martins-Bowling, SI/Humboldt Bay rose and made a donation of \$1,000.00.

SI/Noyo Sunrise announced the winners of their wine raffle.

A short video of invitation to the 2024 SIA Convention in Bellevue, Washington, was shown.

Conference Coordinator Dona was asked to make her announcements.

Governor Vicki then announced that the Trade Fair is still open, today is the last day. A survey QR code is displayed around the room. No host cocktails from 6pm-7pm outside the ballroom entrance. 7pm will begin our evening program. Reminded all to drop their baskets in the ballroom at 7am tomorrow.

Recess 4pm

Saturday, May 6, 2023 Dinner Honoring Past Governors and Region Entertainment

Governor Vicki reconvened the Annual Founder Region Conference and called the meeting to order at 7pm. She congratulated and thanked all for the wonderful job done over the past two days attending our programs and sharing in the business of the region.

RECOGNITION OF PAST GOVERNORS

Governor Vicki asked for everyone's attention as she invited into the ballroom the Past Governors of Founder Region: Amelia Benko, member of SI/The Tri-Valley, Founder Region Governor from 2008-2010, her theme was "Making a Difference Matters". Escorted by District I Director Lenore Colarusso.

Dona Gaddis Wolf, member of SI/Antioch, Founder Region Governor from 2012-2014, her theme was "Share the Light of Soroptimist Service". Escorted by District II Director Jackie De Vries.

SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin, member of SI/Benicia, Founder Region Governor from 2014-2016, her theme was "Share the JOY of Soroptimist". Escorted by Region Secretary Kristal Koga.

Pam Parker, member of SI/St. Helena, Founder Region Governor from 2016-2018, her theme was "Soroptimists Are Shining Stars". Escorted by District III Director Colleen Ganaye.

Sylvia Crafton, member of SI/The Marianas, Founder Region Governor from 2018-2020, her theme was "Empowering Change". Escorted by District V Director Teri Lynn Sato.

Kris Chorbi, member of SI/Eureka, Founder Region Governor from 2020-2022, her theme was "Dream BIG for the Future!" Escorted by District IV Director Elaine Reed.

Governor Vicki said that she has been blessed to know each of them personally and honored to have served with each of them in some capacity. She is even more fortunate to be able to turn to them for advice, support, guidance, wisdom and most of all, friendship. She thanked the Past Governors for all that they have done and continue to do for Founder Region. A donation to the Laurel Society will be made on behalf of each of them.

The inspiration on behalf of the host clubs was given by Kay Taylor, President & Carolyn Bolton, Immediate Past-President of SI/Oakland-The Founder Club.

The welcome on behalf of the four host clubs was given by President of SI/El Cerrito, Susan Yeazel.

A video was shown honoring the past Governors of Founder Region.

Governor Vicki reminded all about the Table Raffle. On each of the tables there is an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets are \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50.00 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money we raise during dinner tonight will go toward our region’s Dream Programs and not to forget to put your meal ticket in front of your place setting.

Dinner

Founder Region members have been extremely generous in raising \$901.00 during our Table Raffle tonight. Treasurer Tess gave the lucky winner a \$50.00 bill.

Conference Chair Dona was called on to make any announcements.

Governor Vicki requested everyone to sit back and enjoy the entertainment, then dance the night away. We will recess until 8:30am tomorrow morning when we will gather for our Memorial Service and Awards Program.

Recess 8:30pm

“Founder Region’s Got Talent!” entertainment segment began with District I Director, Lenore Colarusso as the emcee and Region Treasurer Tess Albin-Smith as our board techie extraordinaire. Clubs that signed up for the contest: Founder Region Fellowship Board, SI/Vacaville and two clubs combining in a joint effort SI/Sonoma Valley & SI/Santa Rosa. Dancing followed.

Sunday, May 7, 2023 Celebration of Service Memorial and Dream Awards Program

Governor Vicki reconvened the conference at 8:00am Sunday morning with the Celebration of Service Memorial in remembrance of members we lost this year. She welcomed attendees to our 2023 Celebration of Service Memorial Program. Each Sunday morning of conference, we take the time to remember the Soroptimist members we have lost over the past year. We contemplate what they meant to us and how their dedication, experience and passion inspired us. They might have been a member for a short time, or decades, but each of them touched our lives just by being a Soroptimist, and by being our friends. They came into our lives for a reason, and they will forever remain in our hearts. Together, let us celebrate and reflect on their Service. A slide show with photos of the members we have lost was shown.

Elena David	SI/	Arcata	48 Year member
Geraldine “Gerry” Pigg	SI/	Arcata	46 Year member
Betsy Stahle	SI/	Clear Lake	59 Year member
Mary Ruth Rheinschild	SI/	Crescent City	42 Year member
Joanne Byer	SI/	The Delta	39 Year Member
Sally Adams	SI/	Dixon	25 Year Member
Janet Abelson	SI/	El Cerrito	22 Year Member
Lonnie Mitchell	SI/	Fort Bragg	47 Year Member
Bessie Dreibelbis Margherio	SI/	Richmond	19 Year Member
Kay Rutherford	SI/	St. Helena	44 Year Member
Elaine Bacigalupi	SI/	Santa Rosa	49 Year Member
Caroline Dillman	SI/	Sonoma Valley	63 Year Member
Carol Monahan	SI/	The Tri-Valley	14 Year Member

To add to this beautiful tribute to our departed members, Fellowship Director Laura Middlemiss, SI/Humboldt Bay, beautifully sang “Hallelujah”.

Governor Vicki bid a farewell to our dear Soroptimists whom together, these women had over 500 years of Soroptimist Service. She thanked Treasurer Tess for recording the Soroptimist Symphony for the program. The music and lyrics are provided in the Founder Region History book and posted on the region website. This beautiful music will be played during the Memorial Programs in the future so our Soroptimist Symphony will live on and never be forgotten, like those honored here today.

A special thank you to the members of SI/Oakland – The Founder Club for coordinating the logistics of our Memorial Celebration of Service this morning.

The 2023 Redwood Memorial Grove Service will be held Sunday, June 11, 2023. The service is moderated by Chair Debbie Thompson and presented by members of the Founder Region Board. All members are encouraged to attend this inspiring and moving service. Please join us as we remember our beloved members. More information can be found on page 24 of your Conference Program and on page 30 of the Call to Conference on the Founder Region website.

As always, on each of the tables there is an envelope with tickets inside. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50.00 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money we raise today will go towards our region Dream Program Awards. Guests and recipients were informed that there is no obligation to participate in this raffle drawing.

Breakfast

The inspiration was given by District II Director Jackie De Vries, SI/Vacaville. The welcome was given by District III Director Colleen Ganaye, SI/Sonoma Valley.

Governor Vicki presented the Platform Party.

Upper Tier far left:

District V Director Teri Lynn Sato

District IV Director Elaine Reed

Upper Tier far right:

District I Director Lenore Colarusso

District II Director Jackie De Vries

District III Director Colleen Ganaye

Far left:

Treasurer Tess Albin-Smith

“S” Club Chair, Joy Swank, SI/Vacaville

Live Your Dream Chair, Debbie Coles, SI/Arcata

Governor-elect Elise Balgley

Far right:

Fundraising Chair, Gina Moore, SI/Antioch

Secretary Kristal Koga

Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Bobbi Enderlin

Governor Vicki Ham

Governor Vicki announced for members to turn in all Dream ticket stubs at this time to the Fundraising Team. Ticket sales have officially ended.

Governor Vicki invited Governor-elect Elise to the podium to emcee our Dream Program Awards. In addition to her duties as Governor-elect, Elise acts as the Founder Region Program Chair. As Program Chair she administers the Violet Richardson Award, and acts as the direct liaison with the Live Your Dream, Barbara Stevenson “S” Club and Dream It, Be It Committee Chairs.

BARBARA STEVENSON “S” CLUB AWARD

This award recognizes an outstanding high school senior. Chair Joy Swank announced the winning recipient this year is Emily Keas from Freedom High School in Oakley. Her sponsoring club is SI/The Delta. Emily was unable to attend our conference but has sent a video for us to enjoy. She will receive a \$500.00 check from Founder Region.

VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD

Chair Governor-elect Elise gave an overview of The Violet Richardson Award. It is a recognition program for young women between the ages of 14 and 18 who make their community and world a better place by volunteering. Thanked her committee. Founder Region will present \$500.00 awards to each of our five district winners. The winners each gave a short speech.

District I – Andrea Martinez sponsored by SI/The East Bay via video

District II – Caitlin Peck sponsored by SI/Vacaville

District III – Kalyani Ryaru sponsored by SI/Novato

District IV – Laelia Maynor sponsored by SI/Humboldt Bay

District V – Esther Chan sponsored by SI/Honolulu via video

LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD

Governor-elect Elise gave an overview of the award. She then introduced Chair Debbie, who announced the Live Your Dream Recipients for 2023. She first thanked the clubs for increasing their awards, recognized her committee and the judges. The winners were invited to speak and were presented with a certificate and check.

District I – Sarrah Jessa submitted by SI/Martinez via video

District II – Cari Loftin- submitted by SI/Dixon

District III – Rashel Waite- submitted by SI/Oakmont Wine Country

District IV – Emily Newton- submitted by SI/Noyo Sunrise

District V – Sscents Bobbie Erler- submitted by SI/Central Oahu

Four of our District Live Your Dream Award winners have received \$2,000.00 from Founder Region and \$3,000.00 from Soroptimist International of the Americas for a total of \$5,000.00. However, one of our district winners is also our Region winner and she has received \$5,000.00 from Soroptimist International of the Americas, and a \$2000.00 check and a \$500.00 gift certificate to Amazon from Founder Region, for a total award of \$7,500.00. The winner who will be advancing to Federation level was Emily Newton from District IV sponsored by SI/Noyo Sunrise.

Governor Vicki thanked Governor-elect Elise, LYD Chair Debbie Coles, and “S” Club Chair Joy Swank for such empowering presentations of our Dream Program Awards. She gave a huge congratulations to each one of our award recipients.

Founder Region decided to have an incentive for all clubs giving more than one Live Your Dream Award this year. Those club names have been entered into a drawing for \$1,000.00 to give an additional award in 2024. Clubs have one entry in the drawing for every award given over one. The funds will be dispersed upon confirmation of an additional award in 2024. Congratulations to SI/Central Solano County.

DREAM IT, BE IT

Governor-elect Elise gave the report for Chair Bev Gomer who could not join us today. Her topic was on DI, BI reporting and evaluation. Submit the online form to SIA after your project is completed. This evaluation measures the success of a project and the impact it has. In this way SIA can track our progress and you can make well-informed decisions about your project. Deadline no later than June 1.

A video of the SI Convention in Dublin Ireland was shown.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Registration Chair Laura Glass SI/Antioch presented the 47th annual Founder Region Conference attendance report. The attendance report can be found on page 34 of your conference program.

International Officers: 0	Club Delegates: 116
Federation Officers: 1	Other Soroptimists: 89
Region Officers: 4	Guests: 38
District Directors: 5	
Fellowship Officers: 2	
Fellowship Directors: 5	Total in Attendance: 260

Governor Vicki repeated the attendance report and thanked Chair Laura.

The winner of the attendance drawing was Suzan Shaw of SI/Calistoga, who will receive complimentary registration and meals for the 2024 Conference.

Table drawing today collected \$838.00 and that will go towards our Region Dream Programs. The lucky winner received \$50.00.

She invited those Clubs who had drawings to come to the podium to announce their winners.

President Kris announced the Conference Drawing winners.

Conference Drawings	
Wendy McDonald	SI/Maui
Sue Pretzer	SI/The Delta
Rena Borja	SI/Guam
Maida Herbst	SI/Sonoma Valley
Maddy Leader	SI/Sonoma Valley
Laurie Gallian	SI/Sonoma Valley
Laurie Garrison	SI/Eel River Valley
Lenore Colarusso	SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)
Sue Pretzer	SI/Delta

Fundraising Chair Gina announced the basket winners and procedures for picking up the winning baskets.

Treasurer Tess announced the incentive drawing for the clubs that sold all their tickets, winner is SI/Willits, receiving a \$250.00 donation to Club Giving.

Governor Vicki announced a correction in the attendance report. The report is reflected correctly above.

She asked if Chair Dona could invite the Marriott staff out so we could thank them. They received a warm round of applause.

She asked if Chair Dona had any announcements.

Governor Vicki gave her final thank yous to the following:

Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Bobbi, Region Committee Chairs, Pages & Timekeepers, Stewards – Kay Taylor, Amelia Benko and Lydia Justice, Credentials Chair Patricia Costello, Registration Chair Laura Glass, Floor Chair Susan Yeazel, Trade Fair Chair Donna Whitehouse, Audiovisual Chair Kris Wiley and Conference Treasurer Cara Begley. Our host clubs, Soroptimist International of The East Bay, El Cerrito, Oakland-The Founder Club, and The Tri-Valley were presented with Host Club Certificates and a donation to be made to SIA Club Giving in each club's name. Governor Vicki then thanked Conference Coordinator Dona and will never be able to thank her enough for all that she has done to ensure that the members of Founder Region had a wonderful experience here at conference. She thanked her team, members of the board - Directors Lenore, Jackie, Colleen, Elaine, Teri, Treasurer Tess, Secretary Kristal, Parliamentarian Sylvia and Governor-elect Elise: we have all worked well together over this past year and she is looking forward to this again next year. We will continue to "Bee the Dream!"

Governor Vicki gave a huge thank you to her dearest friend, Past-governor Kris Chorbi. Her help with the Call, the program and anything else was truly invaluable.

Governor Vicki reminded all to complete the online survey. Signs with a QR code to the online survey are on several tables and will be posted on the Conference page of the Region website.

She thanked everyone for making this conference a memorable experience and to share your excitement and enthusiasm with others around you. Encourage members that didn't attend this year to attend next year. Stay in touch with your new Soroptimist friends. Take back the knowledge you gained this weekend and stay uplifted. Continue to "Bee the Dream!" for Women and Girls and for Founder Region.

She invited the presidents or representatives for the host clubs for the 2024 Conference to come forward – Nancy Koski, SI/Santa Rosa, Kris Wiley, SI/Novato and Denise Bickert, SI/Oakmont Wine Country. They will lead us in the Soroptimist Pledge.

Being no further business, the Forty-Seventh Annual Founder Region Conference was adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristal Koga, Founder Region Secretary